

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit;

displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;

receiving identification information from a user, wherein the identification or title of an electronic book is displayed based on the identification information from the user;

receiving information on whether the electronic book contains a restriction based on at least one selected from the group consisting of content, a rating, an associated access level, a page order based restriction, and a time based restriction; wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book; and

if the electronic book contains at least one restriction, receiving information on whether the restriction applies to the identified user;

restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information;

saving a first restricted version of the electronic book in the library unit including the original format of the electronic book;

creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting predetermined content;

saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit;  
and

inserting a cross-reference to the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the a header portion of the first restricted version of the electronic book.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes restricting the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book, wherein the rating can be assigned to the electronic book by one selected from the group consisting of a publisher at an operation center and by a user.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of text within the electronic book and permitting no viewing of images within the electronic book.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a restriction on selected content from a user, wherein the content includes at least one of an image, text, a page, and a section of the electronic book; and wherein creating the second unrestricted version of the electronic book includes deleting the selected content.

Claim 5 (Canceled):

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising inserting a cross-reference to the first restricted version of the electronic book in a header portion of the second unrestricted version of the electronic book.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting unlimited access to the electronic book.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit;

receiving identification information from a user;

displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer, wherein the identification or title of the electronic book is displayed based on the identification information received from the user;

receiving a restriction on selected content from a user, wherein the content includes at least one of an image, text, a page, and a section of the electronic book, and wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book;

saving a first restricted version of the electronic book in the library unit including the original format of the electronic book;

creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the selected content;

saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit;

inserting a cross reference between the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book;

receiving information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to an identification of potential users, wherein, based on the

identification of the potential users, a list of electronic books that can be accessed by the potential users is displayed; and

restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 11 (Canceled):

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic books for display on a viewer, comprising:

storing and indexing a plurality of electronic books in a library unit;

receiving identification information from a user;

displaying a directory of the plurality of electronic books on a viewer, wherein the directory of the plurality of electronic books is displayed based on the identification information received from the user;

permitting a particular user to

assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books;

assign an access level restriction to a potential user;

create unrestricted versions of electronic books to which the particular user has restricted access by deleting restricted portions of the electronic book;

assign a page order based restriction to each of the electronic books; and

assign a time based restriction to each of the electronic books, wherein each page of the electronic book must be displayed for a predetermined period of time; and

restricting access by the potential user ~~other users~~ to the electronic books based upon the assigned ratings and the assigned access level.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12; wherein the permitting step includes permitting the user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the restricting step includes selectively permitting access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of ratings.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 12, further including requiring the particular user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the permitting step includes permitting a default user to assign the rating.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for display on a viewer, comprising:

storing and indexing an electronic book in a library unit;

receiving identification information from a user;

displaying a directory having the stored electronic book on a viewer, wherein the directory is displayed based on the identification information received from the user;

permitting a particular user to select portions of the electronic book for use in restricting access to a content of the electronic book and rate access levels for other users;

restricting access by the other users to the content of the electronic book based upon the particular user's selected portions, wherein an access restriction set by the particular user to each of the other users is stored in a header file of the electronic book;

automatically creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the selected portions of the electronic book;

inserting a cross reference between a first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book; and

saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A method for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;

receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users; and

permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A method for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality of sections;

receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and

permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

Claim 23-24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books, comprising:

a library unit for storing and indexing the electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic books having an identification or title of an electronic book, wherein the index of the electronic books is displayed based on identification information of a user;

a receiving module that receives identification information from a user and receives information on whether the electronic book contains a restriction based on at least one selected from the group consisting of content, a rating, an associated access level, a page order based restriction, a time based restriction and if the electronic book contains at least one restriction, on whether the restriction applies to the identified user, wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book; and

a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the information, wherein the restricting module includes a cross reference section that inserts a cross reference to the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in a header portion of a first version of the electronic book to portions of which access is restricted.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a rating access module that restricts the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book, wherein the rating can be assigned to the electronic book at an operations center by one selected from a group consisting of a publisher and by a user.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a permitting module that permits viewing of text within the electronic book and permits no viewing of images within the electronic book.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a book sections access module that restricts access to particular portions of the electronic book based upon the information and an unrestricted version module that creates a second, unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the particular portions to which access is restricted and saves the second unrestricted version in the library unit.

Claim 29 (Canceled):



Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the cross reference sections inserts a cross reference to the first version of the electronic book in a header portion of the second unrestricted electronic book.

Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 25; wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits unlimited access to the electronic book.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books, comprising:

a library unit for storing and indexing the electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic books having an identification or title of an electronic book, wherein the index of the electronic books is displayed based on identification information received from a user;

a restriction receiving module that receives a restriction on selected content of the electronic book from a user, saves the restriction in a header file of the electronic book, saves a first restricted version of the electronic book in the original format, creates a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the selected content, and saves the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit;

an information receiving module that receives information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to an identification of potential users; and

a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the information and the restriction stored in the header file of the electronic book, wherein the restricting module includes a cross reference section that inserts a cross reference between the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book.

Claim 35 (Canceled):

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic books for display, comprising:

a memory that stores and indexes a plurality of electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic book, wherein the index of the electronic book is displayed based on identification information received from a user;

a permitting module that permits a particular user to

assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books;

assign an access level for each other user;

create unrestricted versions of electronic books to which the user has restricted access by deleting restricted portions of the electronic book;

assign a page order based restriction to each of the electronic books

assign a time based restriction to each of the electronic books, wherein each page of the electronic book must be displayed for a predetermined period of time; and

a restricting module that restricts access by each other user users to the electronic books based upon the assigned ratings, wherein the access restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book.

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits the user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

Claim 38 (original): The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restricting module includes a selective permitting module that selectively permits access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of ratings.

Claim 39 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, further including a password module that requires the particular user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

Claim 40 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a rating module that permits a default user to assign the rating.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for display, comprising:

a storing module that stores and indexes an electronic book;

a display unit for displaying an index having the electronic book, wherein the index is displayed based on identification information received from a user;

a permitting module that permits a particular user to select portions of the electronic book for use in restricting access to a content of the electronic book; and

a restricting module that restricts access by other users to the content of the electronic book based upon the particular user's selected portions, wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book; and

an unrestricted version creation module that automatically creates a second, unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the user's selected portions and saves the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit,

wherein the restricting module includes a cross reference section that inserts a cross reference between the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): An apparatus for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;

a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users; and

a permitting module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a viewing module that permits viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): An apparatus for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

- a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality of sections;

- a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and

- a viewing module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

Claim 47-49. (Canceled)

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:

- storing the electronic book in a library unit;
- receiving identification information from a user;
- indexing the electronic book within an index of the library unit;
- displaying a screen with the index having the electronic book on a viewer,
- wherein the index is displayed based on the identification information received from the user;

- displaying within the screen a page of an electronic book, the page including at least a portion of content of the electronic book;

- permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the content displayed within the screen;

- displaying a section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction of the identified content, wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book;

- storing a first restricted version of the electronic book including a restriction based on the identified content;

- creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the identified content;

- inserting a cross reference between the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book and

saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): A screen for use in electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:

a library unit for storing the electronic book;

an index for indexing the electronic book;

a screen with the index having the electronic book for display on a viewer,

wherein the index is displayed based on identification information received from a user;

a section within the screen for displaying a page of an electronic book, the page including at least a portion of content of the electronic book and a section permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the content displayed within the screen;

a restrict section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction of the identified content, wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book;

a create an unrestricted version section within the screen for permitting the user to create a second, unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the identified content and saving the second unrestricted version in the library unit, wherein the create an unrestricted version section permits a user to insert a cross reference between the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book.

Claim 52-53. (Canceled)